

## REPORT AMERICAN EELS FROM THE ROANOKE RIVER BASIN, UPSTREAM OF THE ROANOKE RAPIDS DAM

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is cooperating with Dominion (Virginia/North Carolina Power), the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and federal resource agencies in a study investigating the presence of American eels in the Roanoke River basin upstream of Roanoke Rapids Lake, North Carolina. The study is being conducted as part of a program to restore American eels to the Roanoke River basin by providing passage upstream of dams owned and operated by Dominion. Any eels caught by anglers from the Roanoke (Staunton) River or its tributary streams (including the Hyco, Pigg and Dan Rivers), or from Lake Gaston, Kerr Reservoir, Leesville Reservoir, Smith Mountain Lake or Philpott Lake are of interest.

If you catch an American eel from the Roanoke River basin, it would benefit the study if anglers kept the eel and contacted Mr. Bob Graham of Dominion at 804-271-5377, or <a href="mailto:bob.graham@dom.com">bob.graham@dom.com</a>. Bob will make arrangements with you to collect the eel for scientific study. As soon as possible after catching the eel it should be bagged and frozen. If facilities are not available to freeze the eel, it should be kept on ice. Cooperation in the study will be greatly appreciated, and will benefit efforts to restore American eels to their historic range. Thank you!